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THE

NORTH CAROLINA

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HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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GENERAL INFORMATION

1911

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*Can you publish this in a future number, especially from pages 13 to 20.*

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COMMISSIONERS:

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W. J. PEELE, Raleigh.      THOMAS M. PITTMAN, Henderson.

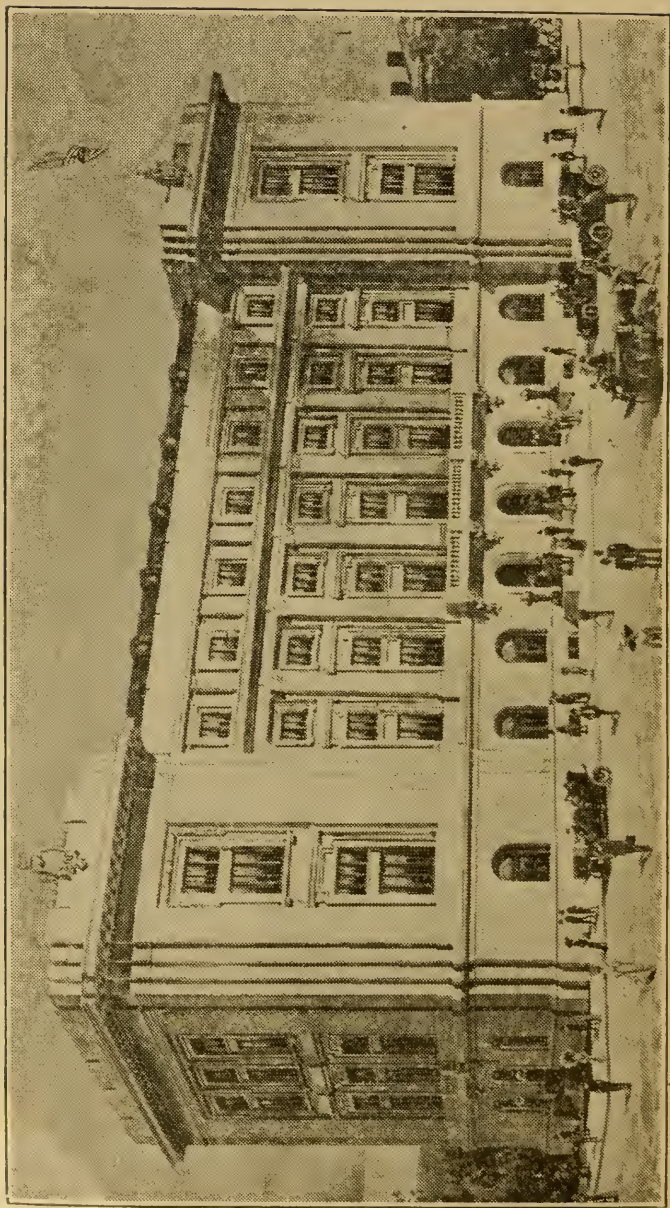
M. C. S. NOBLE, Chapel Hill.      D. H. HILL, Raleigh.

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R. D. W. CONNOR, *Secretary*, Raleigh.

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OCT 30 1929





STATE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

THE NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL COMMISSION WILL OCCUPY THE SECOND FLOOR OF THIS BUILDING.

## GENERAL INFORMATION.

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### NEW QUARTERS OF THE STATE HISTORICAL COMMISSION.

In the new State Administration Building, now being erected in the city of Raleigh, a cut of which appears on the opposite page, the North Carolina Historical Commission is to be provided with commodious and modernly equipped quarters. The building is located at the head of Fayetteville Street, the principal street of the city, facing on Morgan Street, overlooking the Capitol Square. The cost of the building, exclusive of the site and furnishing, will be \$200,000. It will be in every particular a beautiful, modern, fire-proof structure. The act of the General Assembly directing its erection, cited, as the necessity for such a building, the fact that as "valuable libraries, priceless manuscripts, historic relics, many records and much [public] property are housed in many separate and unfit buildings, exposed to constant danger from fire," "it is imperatively necessary that larger and safer quarters be provided for the same"; that, therefore, "a fireproof building, adequate for the purposes intended and required, should be erected." (Chapter 66, Public Laws 1911.)

**Quarters of the Historical Commission.** The entire second floor of this building is to be devoted to the work of the North Carolina Historical Commission. On this floor will be provided offices for the Historical Commission, its officers and employees, a Document Room for

the filing of manuscripts, an Exhibition Hall for the public exhibition of manuscripts, a Hall of History for the preservation of historic relics, a Portrait Gallery, reading rooms for students and investigators, etc., etc. The whole will be equipped with modern furniture and other facilities for work.

## CREATION OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION.

Nothing can better illustrate the growth in importance and scope of the work of the North Carolina Historical Commission than the willingness of the Legislature to make such provisions for its future expansion.

**Act of 1903.** The North Carolina Historical Commission was created by act of the General Assembly of 1903 (chapter 767, Public Laws). This act provided for a commission of five members to be appointed by the governor. They were to serve two years, without salary, *per diem*, mileage, or other expenses. It was declared to be their duty to have collected and published, as other State printing, documents "pertaining to the history of the State." For this work the Commission was allowed only \$500 annually. No office or any equipment of any character was provided for its work. Efficient work was, of course, impossible. The best that could be hoped for was so to use the fund available as to demonstrate the importance and value of such work, and thus induce the Legislature to enlarge the powers and increase the appropriation of the Commission. Success crowned these efforts.

The General Assembly of 1907 amended the act of 1903 in the following important particulars:



**Act of** 1. The term of office was increased to six years;

**1907.** 2. The duties and powers of the Commission were greatly enlarged;

3. The annual appropriation was increased from \$500 to \$5,000;

4. The Commission was given authority to employ a secretary and such other officers as it judged necessary;

5. Offices were assigned to the Commission in the State Capitol.

Under this act the Commission elected a secretary who entered upon his duties July 1, 1907.

### DUTIES AND POWERS.

The duties of the Historical Commission are as follows:

**Duties.** 1. To have collected from the files of old newspapers, court records, church records, private collections, and elsewhere, historical data pertaining to the history of North Carolina and the territory included therein from the earliest times.

2. To have such material properly edited, published by the State Printer as other State printing, and distributed under the direction of the Commission.

3. To care for the proper marking and preservation of battle-fields, houses, and other places celebrated in the history of the State.

4. To diffuse knowledge in reference to the history and resources of North Carolina.

5. To encourage the study of the history of North Carolina in the schools of the State, and to stimulate and encourage historical investigation and research among the people of the State.

6. To make a biennial report of its receipts and disbursements, its work and needs, to the Governor, to be by him transmitted to the General Assembly.

The Commission has the following powers:

**Powers.** 1. To adopt a seal for use in official business.

2. To adopt rules for its own government not inconsistent with the provisions of the law.

3. To fix a reasonable price for its publications and to devote the revenue arising from such sales to extending the work of the Commission.

4. To employ a secretary.

5. To control the expenditure of such funds as may be appropriated for its maintenance.

The purpose of this booklet is to state briefly how the Historical Commission during the first four years of its work under the act of 1907 has performed its duties.

## COLLECTIONS OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION.

The most important duty imposed upon the Historical Commission is the collection of documents pertaining to the history of North Carolina. The following collections have been deposited with the Historical Commission, either as gifts or as loans:

**“Hayes” MSS.** 1. These are transcripts of the manuscripts of Governor Samuel Johnston, preserved in the library at “Hayes,” near Edenton, formerly the residence of Governor Johnston. Permission to have these transcripts made was granted by Mr. John G. Wood, the present owner of “Hayes.” They embrace many letters from the Revolutionary leaders of North Carolina and other States.

2. These transcripts of the colonial manuscripts, recently found among the private papers of Lord Dartmouth, Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1772, were made for the Historical Commission by Messrs. B. F. Stevens and Brown, of London, by permission of the present Lord Dartmouth.

**Dartmouth Transcripts.** 3. A large collection of the correspondence of Dr. Calvin H. Wiley, first superintendent of public instruction of North Carolina, 1853-1865. It is valuable for the light thrown on the educational history of the State. Presented by Mrs. Calvin H. Wiley.

**Wiley MSS.** 4. A collection of more than 1,000 letters and other MSS. of the late John H. Bryan, member of Congress from North Carolina, 1825-1829. Very valuable to the student of the ante-bellum history of North Carolina. Presented to the State by the present representatives of the Bryan family.

**Bryan MSS.** 5. This collection embraces 1,310 letters and other documents of the private correspondence of Jonathan Worth, governor of North Carolina, 1865-1868. These manuscripts have been published by the Historical Commission. Presented by Governor Worth's daughters.

**Worth MSS.** 6. Transcripts of the papers collected by the late Governor Swain for the North Carolina Historical Society. The originals are in possession of the society at Chapel Hill. The transcripts number 1,065 documents bearing on colonial and ante-bellum history.

**Historical Society Collection.** 7. A splendid collection of the papers of the Johnston and Iredell families, embracing the correspondence of Governor Samuel Johnston, Judge James

**Charles E. Johnson Collection.**

*Manuscripts of J. H. Bryan*

Iredell, and Governor James Iredell, numbering 2,529 manuscripts. Loaned by Colonel Charles E. Johnson.

**Vance MSS.** 8. The correspondence and other papers of the late Senator Zebulon Baird Vance, embracing more than 4,000 documents. Presented principally by Mrs. Vance.

**Spencer MSS.** 9. The manuscripts of the late Mrs. Cornelia P. Spencer. The collection embraces 372 documents. Presented by Mrs. Spencer's daughter, Mrs. James L. Love, of Cambridge, Mass.

**Grimes MSS.** 10. The letters and military papers of Major-General Bryan Grimes, C. S. A. The collection contains 494 manuscripts, of especial interest to students of the Civil War. Presented by Mrs. Grimes.

**Hale MSS.** 11. This collection, though small, is of exceedingly great value. It is made up of the letters of E. J. Hale senior, founder and editor of the *Fayetteville Observer*. At one time the collection embraced thousands of manuscripts, but three fires in the office of the *Observer* have reduced it to its present size. It now numbers 397 letters. Presented by Mr. Hale's son, Major E. J. Hale.

**Saunders MSS.** 12. A small but interesting collection of the letters of the late Colonel William L. Saunders, secretary of state of North Carolina and editor of the "Colonial Records of North Carolina." It contains 115 documents.

**Clark Collection.** 13. A collection of manuscripts of the Revolutionary history of the State and of the closing years of the eighteenth century, embracing 1,065 documents, presented by Hon. Walter Clark.

14. The letters of William A. Graham, governor, United States senator, secretary of the navy, Confederate States senator. The collection contains 496 letters. Presented by Hon. William A. Graham, commissioner of agriculture.

**Graham MSS.**

15. Embraces the papers of Charles Pettigrew, bishop-elect of North Carolina, Ebenezer Pettigrew, member of Congress, and of James Johnston Pettigrew, brigadier-general, C. S. A. Of especial interest for sources of economic and industrial history from 1800 to 1860. Presented by the Misses Pettigrew, present representatives of the family in North Carolina.

**Pettigrew MSS.**

16. In addition to the above collections, the Historical Commission has received from time to time various smaller collections, and miscellaneous documents too numerous to be mentioned specifically. A fuller description of these collections is given in Bulletin No. 9, of the Publications of the Historical Commission.

**Miscellaneous MSS.**

### NEWSPAPER FILES.

The Historical Commission has also had copied from colonial newspapers of other states valuable data bearing on the colonial history of North Carolina. These files include *The Boston Evening Post*, 1769-1770; *The Virginia Gazette*, 1771-1776; *The South Carolina Gazette*, 1732-1775; *The South Carolina Gazette and Country Journal*, 1765-1775, and *The South Carolina Gazette and American General Gazette*, 1766-1775. In the absence of North Carolina newspapers of the colonial period, these papers are very valuable for historical purposes.

## ARCHIVES OF THE STATE.

The most important, as it is the largest collection of manuscripts pertaining to the history of North Carolina in existence is to be found in the public archives at Raleigh. Few people know the extent and richness of this collection in historical material. It covers more than two hundred years of our history, from the close of the seventeenth century to the present day. But the manner in which these records have been cared for is anything but creditable to our patriotism and intelligence. Thousands of valuable manuscripts, record books, and other documents have been stuffed away in dark pigeonholes, in boxes and obscure corners, without order or system, or have been tossed about, thrown helter-skelter, here and there, in leaky attics in various parts of the city, with an utter indifference to their value. The creation of the North Carolina Historical Commission and the erection of the State Administration Building will, happily, put an end to this condition.

The governors are required by law to keep a letter-book into which important letters and other documents must be copied. But all the governors have not followed the same practice in this respect. Some of them have had copied practically all of their correspondence, some have had copied only such letters as were deemed of especial importance, and some have had copied only such public documents as commissions, resignations, and proclamations. Consequently, there are thousands of loose letters and other documents of the Executive Department of the greatest historical importance that do not appear in the executive letter-books at all.

Until the organization of the Historical Commission no effort seems to have been made to preserve these manuscripts. They were hauled out of the governor's office and literally dumped into the leaky and dilapidated attic of the building on Fayetteville Street until recently occupied by the state insurance commissioner. There they were left without protection from rain, fire, or pilferers. Indeed, access to them was allowed to anyone who desired to rummage through them. Consequently, many important documents have been lost. But the greater part has been rescued, and they are now preserved among the collections of the Historical Commission, where they are being classified and filed as rapidly as possible.

Thus far, of this collection, 14,754 letters and other documents have been filed, representing 9,581 correspondents.

### PUBLICATIONS.

Coupled with the duty of collecting material pertaining to our history is the equally important duty of having such material published. The Historical Commission has issued 22 publications, and has one other in press.

**Pamphlets.** REPORT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL COMMISSION to Governor Charles B. Aycock, 1903-1905. By R. D. W. Connor, Secretary. 7 pp. 1904.

ADVANCED SHEETS OF LITERARY AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1900-1905, Part I, relating to the Work of the State Literary and Historical Association. Compiled and edited by W. J. Peele and Clarence H. Poe.

ADVANCED SHEETS OF LITERARY AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1900-1905, Part II, relating to the Reports of Historical Organiza-



tions in North Carolina. Compiled and edited by W. J. Peele and Clarence H. Poe.

FIVE POINTS IN THE RECORD OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GREAT WAR OF 1861-1865. The Report of the Committee appointed by the State Literary and Historical Association, 1904, to reply to the charges of Judge George L. Christian, of Virginia.

A STATE LIBRARY BUILDING AND DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND RECORDS. An address delivered by R. D. W. Connor before the State Literary and Historical Association, at Raleigh, November 15, 1906. Reprinted from "The North Carolina Booklet." (Supply exhausted.)

SOME NOTES ON COLONIAL NORTH CAROLINA, 1700-1750, by J. Bryan Grimes. Reprinted from "The North Carolina Booklet." (Supply exhausted.)

THE BEGINNINGS OF ENGLISH-AMERICA: Sir Walter Raleigh's Efforts to Plant an English Colony on Roanoke Island, 1584-1587. By R. D. W. Connor. Prepared for distribution at the Jamestown Exposition. (Supply exhausted.)

**Bulletins.** BULLETIN No. 1. THE NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL COMMISSION: Creation and Organization, Duties and Powers, Plans and Purposes. By R. D. W. Connor, Secretary. 18 pp. 1907.

BULLETIN No. 2. THE NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL EXHIBIT at the Jamestown Tercentennial Exposition, Norfolk, Virginia. A history of the exhibit, together with a complete catalogue of the relics, portraits, and manuscripts exhibited. By Mary Hilliard Hinton, Custodian. 51 pp. 1908.

BULLETIN No. 3. THE SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL COMMISSION, 1906-1908. By R. D. W. Connor, Secretary. 21 pp. 1909. (Supply exhausted.)



BULLETIN No. 4. DAVID PATON, ARCHITECT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE CAPITOL. An address by Samuel A. Ashe, delivered in the Senate Chamber of the State Capitol at Raleigh, March 12, 1909, upon the occasion of the presentation of the portrait of David Paton to the State, by his children and grandchildren, and its acceptance by Governor W. W. Kitchin. 19 pp. 1909.

BULLETIN No. 5. THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, 1666-1909. By J. Bryan Grimes, Secretary of State. The bulletin contains cuts of every seal ever in use in this State. 32 pp. 1909.

BULLETIN No. 6. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORY IN A DEMOCRACY. By C. Alphonso Smith, Professor of the English Language, University of North Carolina. An address delivered at the unveiling of a monument to the Muse of History on the Guilford Battle Ground near Greensboro, N. C., July 3, 1909. 11 pp. 1909.

BULLETIN No. 7. ADDRESSES AT THE UNVEILING OF THE BUST OF WILLIAM A. GRAHAM. Set up by the North Carolina Historical Commission, in the rotunda of the State Capitol, January 12, 1910. 94 pp. 1910.

BULLETIN No. 8. CANOVA'S STATUE OF WASHINGTON. By R. D. W. Connor, Secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission. A history of the original statue and of the presentation of a replica by the Italian Government to the State of North Carolina, in 1909. Contains half-tones of the replica presented to the State of North Carolina by the Italian Government, from the original cast in the Canova Museum at Possagno, Italy; of an engraving (1840) of the statue as it appeared on the pedestal, in the State House rotunda at Raleigh;

and of the ruins of the statue, now preserved in the Hall of History at Raleigh. 96 pp. 1910.

BULLETIN No. 9. THE THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL COMMISSION, December 1, 1908, to November 30, 1910. By R. D. W. Connor, Secretary. 56 pp. 1910.

BULLETIN No. 10. ADDRESSES AT THE UNVEILING OF THE BUST OF MATT W. RANSOM by the North Carolina Historical Commission in the rotunda of the State Capitol at Raleigh. Delivered in the Hall of the House of Representatives, January 11, 1911. 55 pp. 1911.

**Literary and Historical Activities.** LITERARY AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1900-1905. Compiled and edited by W. J. Peele. Cloth, 623 pp. 1907. (Edition exhausted.)

**Manuals.** A POCKET MANUAL OF NORTH CAROLINA for the use of the members of the General Assembly of 1909. Compiled by R. D. W. Connor, Secretary. 281 pp. 1909.

A POCKET MANUAL OF NORTH CAROLINA for the use of the members of the General Assembly of 1911. Compiled by R. D. W. Connor, Secretary. 315 pp. 1911.

**Public Education.** THE BEGINNINGS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN NORTH CAROLINA: A Documentary History. 1790-1840. Compiled and edited by Charles L. Coon. In two volumes.

The first volume contains the editor's introduction in two parts: I. Educational and Economic Conditions, 1790-1840; II. Educational Agitation, Measures, and Results. This introduction covers 47 pages and is a sketch of the fifty years of agitation which resulted in the enactment of the first

public school law of North Carolina. Volume I also contains the original documents covering the period to 1832. Volume II covers the period from 1832 to 1840. The publication contains such documents as wills, governors' messages, reports of the literary board, other public documents, memorials and petitions, extracts from newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, etc. The two volumes contain 238 documents.

**THE CORRESPONDENCE OF JONATHAN WORTH.**  
Worth Correspondence. Compiled and edited by J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton, Ph. D., Alumni Professor of History in the University of North Carolina. In two volumes.

Volume I contains a biographical sketch of Jonathan Worth, by Dr. Hamilton, together with his correspondence from February 25, 1841, to June 29, 1866. Volume II contains the correspondence to February, 1868. The two volumes contain 1,064 letters written by Governor Worth, 204 written to him, and 42 miscellaneous letters, a total of 1,310.

**Murphey Papers.** **THE MURPHEY PAPERS:** Being selections from the correspondence, public papers, and historical and miscellaneous articles and collections of Archibald Debow Murphey of North Carolina. Compiled and edited by William H. Hoyt. (*In press.*)

## TO ERECT MEMORIALS.

**Busts Erected in the Capitol.** The law charges the Historical Commission with the duty of erecting memorials to the great men and great events in the history of North Carolina. In accordance with this section of the law the Historical Commission has erected in the rotunda of the State Capitol marble busts of William A. Graham

and Matt W. Ransom, and has placed orders for similar busts of Governors Samuel Johnston and John M. Morehead. The busts of Senator Ransom and Governor Morehead were presented to the State through the Historical Commission by public-spirited citizens who contributed the necessary funds; the bust of Governor Johnston by the Masons of the State.

## ILLUSTRATING THE HISTORY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The Commission has had placed in the Hall of History the following pictures illustrating the history of North Carolina:

**Historical Pictures.** Three pictures of treaty with Tuscarora Indians.

Ten pictures illustrating colonial Edenton.

Three pictures illustrating colonial Wilmington.

Two pictures illustrating colonial Bath.

Two pictures of "Hayes."

Seven pictures illustrating War of the Regulators.

One picture of General Robert F. Hoke.

One picture of Andrew Johnson's birthplace.

One picture of *The New Bern Gazette*, containing the Mecklenburg Resolves of May 31, 1775.

One picture of Richard Cogdell's letter relating to the above copy of *The New Bern Gazette*.

Twenty-six pictures illustrating Indian life in North Carolina. Painted by John White in 1586 and photographed from the engravings of Theodore DeBry, 1590.

Two panoramic views of the city of Raleigh, 1909.

Under the auspices and through the aid of the Historical Commission, Mr. Jacques Busbee has painted views of Roanoke Island, the scene of the

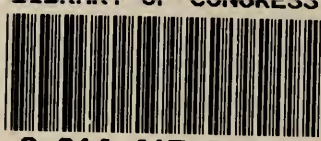
first English colony in America, and of Bath, the oldest town in North Carolina. These pictures are also in the Hall of History.

### **CANOVA'S STATUE OF WASHINGTON.**

In 1910 the Historical Commission secured as a gift from the Italian Government a fine replica of Canova's statue of Washington. The original statue was made by Canova for the State of North Carolina in 1820, and was destroyed by fire in 1831. The plaster replica was made from Canova's original model in the Canova Museum at Possagno, Italy, by order of the Minister of Fine Arts of the Italian Government, especially for North Carolina, and was presented to the State through the Historical Commission. It has been set up temporarily in the State Capitol, but will ultimately be placed permanently in the Hall of History.

### **TO DIFFUSE INFORMATION ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA.**

The law imposes upon the Commission the duty "to diffuse knowledge in reference to the history of North Carolina." The Commission is always glad to receive inquiries in regard to the history of the State, and to answer them if possible. In the performance of this duty a great many letters have been written and bulletins sent out in reply to queries about our history in general, and about specific incidents in our history. A large majority of them, of course, have come from people within the State, but they have been by no means confined to North Carolina. Such requests have been received from persons residing in twenty-two States, and in foreign countries. A very encouraging feature of the work of the Commission is that students are beginning to find their way to its collections and to



make use of them in  
Carolina and Americ

visited the collections for personal investigations.  
Others from all parts of the Union have made use  
of the collections by correspondence with the secre-  
tary. The collections of the Commission are open to  
all students who desire to make use of them, either  
by personal investigation or by correspondence.

**TO ENCOURAGE THE STUDY OF NORTH  
CAROLINA HISTORY.**

The act creating the North Carolina Historical  
Commission makes it the duty of the Commission  
"to encourage the study of the history of North  
Carolina in the schools of the State." The work  
of the Commission in accordance with this clause  
has taken three lines of activity:

1. At the request of the State Superintendent of  
Public Instruction, the Secretary of the Historical  
Commission prepares each year the programs of  
exercises for the celebration of North Carolina Day  
in the public schools. This program is issued from  
the office of the State Superintendent of Public  
Instruction.

2. The Commission has reprinted from Hackluyt's  
Voyages the original documents giving accounts of  
the first English colony in the New World, Sir  
Walter Raleigh's efforts to plant a colony on Roan-  
oke Island. This series will be followed by other  
leaflets bearing upon important events in our his-  
tory.

3. The Historical Commission will aid any student  
who is preparing an essay on any subject in North  
Carolina history, by giving references to sources of  
information. Many such requests have been re-  
ceived, especially from high school pupils, and have  
always been answered as fully as possible.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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